

REMARKS MADE BY PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

CIA HEADQUARTERS LOBBY

30 January 1976

The President:

Mr. Justice Stewart, new Director George Bush, all of you wonderful employees of CIA.

First let me thank all of you for the first-class job you've done under the most difficult circumstances. As I walked over here this morning my memory went back to about 15 or more years ago when I was on the Committee that handled the appropriation for construction of this building. I remember very vividly Mr. Allen Dulles, the then Director, came before the Committee and asked for _____. He said that the facilities where all the people worked were totally inadequate for the tremendous job _____. The Committee eventually _____ made available the money. That was my first exposure to the CIA. And over the years as a veteran of Congress, I had a great deal of opportunity to meet with the various Directors, Mr. McCone, Admiral Raborn, and others, and I had some opportunity as President to know first-hand your fine, former Director, Bill Colby. I say that with great emphasis because I said it Monday when I gave him the National Security Medal for outstanding service of 25 years to this Agency. As I walked over and saw this fine building, I know as well as you know that it's not the brick

and mortar that produces what is so essential and so vital as far as our national security is concerned. It's the people who do the job, and for that I thank all of you for your dedicated, conscientious, extraordinary service. All of us in this country--President and 214 or 15 million others--are very grateful and I thank you on behalf of all of them. I've had the pleasure of knowing your Director for a number of years and served with him in the House of Representatives. I know that _____ the United States. I saw the work that he did in China, so I'm certain _____ the great tradition of former Directors will be carried out by your new Director, George Bush.

I have said as I've traveled around the country the last 9 months or more, this country had to have, as it does, the finest intelligence gathering, evaluating organization in the world. I have said without any fear of contradiction that we, in this Agency, I feel solemnly and _____ do an outstanding job. And the most interesting part of any comments that I've made--whether it's San Francisco, Chicago or elsewhere--is when I do speak up, speak up affirmatively and vigorously and feeling it deeply, that the United States must have and does have an outstanding intelligence evaluating Agency, the applause always comes forth, so despite what you read or some of the comments you may hear, I can say without any reservation at all that the American people are grateful for what you do and they support you in your effort and I do as well. Thank

You.

Approved For Release 2001/03/12 : CIA-RDP79-00498A000700040002-8

TO:	
ROOM NO.	BUILDING
REMARKS: JW/J JF/B Remarks are unintelligible I folded in to make sense Can't be too far wrong Z	
FROM:	
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DD/A Registry
File Spencer

Assistant to the DCI

Rm. 1F-04 Hqs.

Angus:

Attached is a transcript of the comments made by President Ford in the lobby after the swearing-in ceremony on 30 January. A number of people have listened to the tape and have not been able to make out certain portions which are merely left blank on the transcript. I thought you might like to have a copy, however. The tape itself has been turned over to CRS.

[REDACTED] EO-DDA 7D-26 Hqs. x6535 2/7/76

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STATINTL

Deputy Director of Training
Rm. 1026 C of C Bldg.

Don:

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